

SECRET

C E N T R A L I N T E L L I G E N C E A G E N C Y

19 June 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Possibility of Soviet Harassment of West German Meeting in Berlin

1. On 17 June this office received a communication [redacted]

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[redacted] asking for comment in the like-

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lihood of Soviet harassment of a meeting of the West German parliament

in the event that such a meeting were held in Berlin. A copy [redacted]

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[redacted] is attached.

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2. ONE prepared a reply to Mr. Bundy which was forwarded on the afternoon of Wednesday, 17 June. A copy of this reply is also attached.

Chester L. Cooper

CHESTER L. COOPER

Deputy Assistant Director
National Estimates

Attachments

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2. QUESTION OF POSSIBLE HARASSMENT OF BUNDESVERSAMMLUNG SEEMS TO ME ANOTHER ASPECT WORTH CONSIDERING. SOVS MUST BE AWARE OF SHARP INTERNAL STRUGGLE WITHIN FEDREP GOVT ON THIS ISSUE. SOVS PROBABLY ALSO AWARE THAT FRENCH BASICALLY UNHAPPY ABOUT HOLDING ELECTIONS BERLIN AS CONTRADICTING THEIR LEGAL CONTENTION WESTERN BERLIN NOT PART OF FEDREP. FINALLY, USE OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO FLY FEDREP PARTICIPANTS OUT OF WEST BERLIN IN EVENT OF HARASSMENT OF OTHER EXIT ROUTES WOULD HIT US ON THE SORE LEGAL POINT OF OUR RIGHT TO FLY CIVILIANS IN MILITARY AIRCRAFT.


3. FOR ALL OF THESE REASONS, PLUS THE GENERAL ASPECTS OF KEEPING THE PRESSURE ON AT LEAST ALONG LINES OF ALTERNATIVE II OF YOUR SNIE BELIEVE THAT IN THE EVENT OF A CLEAR BREAKOFF THIS POSSIBILITY MIGHT BECOME SUBSTANTIAL. RECOGNIZE THAT MANY ARGUMENTS AGAINST SOVS DOING THIS, AND ALSO THAT OUR JUDGMENT WOULD NOT NOW BE USED TO INFLUENCE FEDREP DECISION BUT RATHER FOR OUR OWN BACKGROUND PLANNING PURPOSES. HOWEVER, BELIEVE ONE SHOULD KEEP CLOSE WATCH THIS POSSIBILITY AND WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS.

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1. FOLLOWING PREPARED IN O/NE.
 2. PRINCIPAL SOV OBJECTIVE WITH RESPECT BUNDESVERSAMMLUNG PROBABLY IS TO CAUSE REVERSAL OF DECISION TO MEET IN BERLIN. WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY CONTINUE PRESSURES AND THREATS TO THIS END, THOUGH SOVS NOT LIKELY COMMIT THEIR OWN PRESTIGE BEHIND THESE THREATS. AGREE WITH BRANDT THAT CALLING OFF BERLIN MEETING NOW WOULD PROBABLY ENCOURAGE OTHER AND MORE SERIOUS ATTEMPTS AT PRESSURE. DECISION CANCEL WOULD NOT BE ATTRIBUTED BY SOVS TO FEDREP BUT WOULD BE TAKEN AS INDICATOR WESTERN WEAKNESS.
 3. IF FEDREP PROCEEDS WITH PLANS TO MEET IN BERLIN, SOVS WOULD PROBABLY ARRANGE SOME DEMONSTRATIONS TO MAINTAIN POSITION WEST BERLIN NOT PART OF FEDREP. MIGHT INDULGE IN MINOR HARASSMENTS SUCH AS INTERFERENCE WITH GROUND TRAVEL OF ELECTORS AND PROVOKE POPULAR DEMONSTRATIONS IN CITY.
 4. DO NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, EVEN IF GENEVA BROKEN OFF AND SIT ON 1 JULY STALEMATED, THAT HARASSMENTS WOULD GO SO FAR AS TO INCLUDE INTERFERENCE WITH COMMERCIAL AIR TRAFFIC OR OTHER MEASURES SUFFICIENTLY DRASTIC PREVENT ACTUAL HOLDING MEETING. SUCH PRESSURES WOULD BE PREMATURE IN LIGHT GENERAL SOV APPROACH TO BERLIN, WEST GERMANY, AND SUMMIT. THUS NEED EVACUATE GERMANS BY MIL TRANSPORT NOT LIKELY ARISE.
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